



Town of Acton Recreation Commission

MINUTES
DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2015

ROOM 126, ACTON TOWN HALL

ATTENDEES	Recreation Commission members present were Ms. Bridget McKeever-Matz, Chair, Mr. Joe Will, Commissioner, Ms. Nancy Gerhardt, Commissioner, Ms. Cathy Fochtman, Recreation Director, Ms. Melissa Rier, Recreation Coordinator
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AGENDA TOPICS - Meeting called to order 10:20 AM

TOPIC: CITIZENS CONCERNS

DISCUSSION	None to report.
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CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION	January 6, 2015 minutes
ACTION ITEM	January 6, 2015 minutes accepted as amended, 3-0

TOPIC: Action Item Review: None.

TOPIC: WINTER CARNIVAL

DISCUSSION	Even though there were a number of activities that were cancelled due to various reasons, Winter Carnival turned out to be a success. The event stayed mostly between the Bathhouse Pavilion and Picnic Pavilion. There were no complaints from the participants, and a couple of the Recreation Commissioners, Ms. Mercier and Ms. McKeever-Matz, volunteered to help out. The Recreation Department decided to put on Winter Carnival from 4:00 – 7:00 PM this year to take advantage of the darkness which worked out great for some of the entertainment, like the fire spinner. The department has a good relationship with the promotional company, Big Fish, who send out different companies to sample their products at our events, like the sampling truck from Dunkin' Donuts. The Recreation Department sold hot dogs, burgers, chips and water and made just under \$700.00. At the closing of the event and since the weather was perfect for this, people sent out wish lanterns into the sky, over NARA Pond.
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TOPIC: JONES FIELD PLAYGROUND DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION	The Acton Recreation Department is looking for ideas to outreach to the community on renovating Jones Playground. Ms. McKeever-Matz had suggested talking to the Acton Family Network because they have lots of members with young families and have playground groups that use the various playgrounds around town. Ms. Gerhardt had suggested talking with the Newcomers and Neighbors Club to inform anyone new who had moved to Acton. Ms. Fochtman had suggested surveying the different sports leagues and clubs around town to get an idea of what people would like at Jones Playground and to see if anyone would be interested in joining a committee for the project. Lastly, the commissioners suggested handing out flyers to the neighbors of Jones Field Playground.
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REPORTS:

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) NARA Picnic Pavilion – Nothing new to report.b) NARA Comfort Station – The next step is to consider ways to fund the construction of the potential design. Also, the Miracle League will be influential in moving this idea along.c) Morrison Farm – Nothing new to report.d) TJ O'Grady – Nothing new to report.e) Playgrounds – Ms. Fochtman and Ms. Rier attended a Certified Playground Safety Inspector Course last week that focuses on identifying the hazards of playgrounds. There has been interest in adding natural elements at Goward Playground and it was recommended to the Recreation Department that natural play elements should meet the same safety criteria as manufactured play equipment.f) Community Preservation Committee – Mr. Will reported that deliberations have not been concluded yet, but the Community Preservation Committee will be meeting Thursday night to make some decisions. Mr. Will gave his opinions about all of the CPC submissions. He thinks the TJ O'Grady Skate Park will receive some money, but not the full amount that the Recreation Department is asking for. He suggested for Ms. Fochtman to attend the Thursday meeting to answer any questions about all three projects.
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NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

The Recreation Department is in the process of hiring a Recreation Secretary along with season summer staff for NARA Park. Recreation Secretary interviews will start this week.

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME:

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM

**Supporting and referenced documentation relating to these minutes are available on the DocuShare site; <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-1985>*